

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN, TREASURER,
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
OF THE
TOWN OF DERRY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1876.

LAWRENCE, MASS :
HAMMON REED, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
EAGLE OFFICE,
1876.

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THE TAXES ASSESSED FOR THE YEAR 1875,
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

State Tax	\$1988 00
County Tax	1850 84
Town Tax	1500 00
School Tax, by law required	1739 50
Special Tax, in No. 7 School District	100 00
“ “ “ 8 “ “	150 00
“ “ “ 9 “ “	300 00
Non Resident Highway Tax	257 23
Amount of Tax on Dogs	137 00
Amount per cent. by Law Allowed	327 55
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	\$8350 12

RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1875.

Cash and State Bonds in Treasury March	
1st, 1875	\$5468 20
Rec'd balance of Collector's List for 1874	830 00
“ from State Treasurer, Railroad Tax	545 60
“ “ “ “ Savings Bank	
Tax	1848 55
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Amount carried forward,	\$8692 35

Amount brought forward,	\$8692 35
Rec'd from State Treasurer, Literary Fund	149 64
“ “ County Treasurer, on Pauper Claims	378 04
Rec'd from Interest on State Bonds	45 61
Money Hired at 5 per cent, Int., Rec'd	5000 00
Interest on S. Brown's Legacy, “	30 00
Interest on Taxes “	19 75
On Tax List of 1875 “	6733 12
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	\$21,048 51

EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 1875.

SCHOOLS.

Paid A. A. Pressey, District No. 1	\$305 91
W. W. Poor, “ “ 2	337 45
J. R. Clark, “ “ 3	196 84
Uriah Hall, “ “ 4	128 02
Geo. K. Whitney, “ “ 5	86 11
M. C. Bartlett, “ “ 6	81 31
Edward. L. Emery, special tax, Dis- trict No. 7	100 00
Edward L. Emery, school tax, Dis- trict No. 7	163 27
George I. Choate, school tax, District No. 8	190 38
Capt. N. H. Brown, special, District No. 8	150 00
J. C. Rowell, District No. 9	106 09
J. E. Webster, special tax, Dist. No. 9	300 00
J. L. Fletcher, school tax, Dist. No. 10	31 64
Wm. H. Crowell, “ “ “ “ 11	134 99

Paid Joshua Morse, school tax, Dist. No. 12 (\$13.68 due on 1874)	116 72
George C. Fitts, in Hampstead, Dis- trict No. 4	8 59
D. Howarth, in Salem, Dist. No. 4	8 59
——— in Chester, “ “ 7	6 90
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	\$2452 81

MAINTENANCE OF THE POOR.

Paid Joshua Morse, for board and lodging tramps	\$25 75
John E. Webster, for board and lodg- ing tramps	18 25
John E. Webster, for supplies fur- nished John Raymond	9 63
Joshua Morse, for conveying Joseph Hall to county farm	5 00
A. B. Smith, for conveying F. G. Ad- ams to county farm	9 00
Joel A. Wright, for support of Mrs. Abigail Sleeper	197 00
Ira A. Merrill, for bills on account of Mrs. Abigail Sleeper	13 70
Jas. H. Eaton, for support of Nathan S. Sheldon	92 50
George W. Head, for support and care of Joseph Hall	60 00
Mrs. A. D. W. Emerson, for supplies	3 00
George Alexander, for supplies	68 65
Louis Southwick, wood for Ruth Pres- sey	4 72

Paid George W. Eastman, for care and supplies to David M. Perham	82 00
Dr. James H. Crombie, surgical attendance on David M. Perham	40 00
Dr. James H. Crombie, for surgical attendance on Mrs. Nellie Wood	46 00
Dr. Brown, medical attendance on Mrs. Henry Small	6 25
Dr. G. C. Howard, surgical attendance on Nelson Chaplin's boy	30 00
F. W. Parker, for supplies furnished Joseph Hall	1 74
F. W. Parker, for supplies furnished Mrs. Mary Diamond	3 00
F. W. Parker, for supplies furnished Samuel Bailey	5 00
F. W. Parker, for supplies furnished Misses Corning	22 76
James C. Taylor, for wood for Jane Humphrey	4 50
J. W. Bean & C. H. Day, for wood furnished A. O. Ryan	9 50
Charles Adams, for coffin for Edward Harney	7 00
George F. Priest, for express to Boston, on body of Edward Harney	2 00
G. O. Reynolds, for Ada Sturtevant	21 65

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid J. H. Jones, Constable	\$7 00
J. H. Jones, S. School Committee	45 00
Joshua Morse, balance of service as Selectman in 1874	9 00

Paid Joshua Morse, balance of service as Selectman in 1875	113 50
James C. Taylor, balance of service as Selectman in 1874	13 00
C. C. Johnson, -balance of service in 1874	9 00
John E. Webster, service as Select- man in 1875	109 50
G. O. Reynolds, service as Select- man in 1875	119 00
G. O. Reynolds, bal. as Collector, 1874	25 00
“ “ part “ 1875	125 00
George Moore, Auditor, 1874	2 00
Robert H. Clark, salary as Treasurer	25 00
F. W. Parker, salary as Town Clerk	20 00
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	\$622 00

STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid State Treasurer, State tax	\$1988 00
County Treasurer, County tax	1850 84

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid to Edmund Adams, for plank for Ramsey bridge, \$4.76, labor for same, \$1.00	\$5 76
George McKenney, moving wall, &c., \$20.00, moving small stones, \$6.00	26 00
Horace A. Hills, work in Dist. No. 34	25 00
James H. Eaton, “ “ “ 17	12 23
G. A. Goodhue, “ “ “ 8	89 75

Paid Jos. F. Coombs, work in Dist. No. 14	5 00
O. D. Couch, land damage, and moving wall, District No. 34	60 00
John Murdock, labor in Dist. No. 23	6 05
Wm. Emery, labor in lower village district	15 00
Benjamin Barker, moving small stones	2 00
James Taylor, moving small stones	6 00
T. Wheeler, moving small stones	2 00
W. W. Bond, moving small stones	4 00
Sewell Floyd, moving small stones	2 00
J. P. Whidden, moving small stones	4 00
James Bowner, moving small stones	2 00
A. Alexander, cutting bushes	2 00
George H. Hills, cutting bushes from 5 Corners to J. Morse's	4 00
John Robbins, cutting bushes in 1874	2 70
George J. Cross, " " 1875 on turnpike	2 50
Charles M. Clyde, labor in Dist. No. 6	23 20
J. Morse & G. O. Reynolds, labor in District No. 6	14 00
Phinehas Scott labor and land damage, District No. 6	60 37
C. H. Day, plank for bridge near J. C. Drew's	1 20
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	\$376 76

NON-RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX RECEIPTS.

Paid G. O. Reynolds, on 1873, 74 and 75 \$265 52

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid J. C. Taylor, for ringing bell	\$25 00
George Richards, for ringing bell	25 00
Goodwin & Pratt, damage to sleigh, March 1st, 1875	25 50
E. P. Upton, repairing pump, upper village	2 75
H. E. Eastman, legal advice, from Briggs & Huse	5 00
G. O. Reynolds, time and expenses to Methuen and Exeter, on R. H. Shield's case	5 00
Cross & Burnham, legal service on Folsom road case	22 20
G. O. Reynolds, time and expenses to Concord to settle State tax	4 00
Joshua Morse, time and expenses to Exeter to settle pauper claims	5 00
Joshua Morse time and expenses to Exeter to meet Selectmen on taxes	5 00
R. M. Pulsifer, for advertising Ed- ward Harney in Boston Herald	1 00
O. B. George, damage to his vehicle	3 00
J. H. Jones, posting notices, &c.	2 00
George Richards, tolling bell, \$2.00, cash paid for repairs 75 cents	2 75
Charles H. Day, wood for the town	5 00
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	\$138 20

NOTES AND INTEREST PAID.

Paid James Nowell, note and interest	\$528 00
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Paid Jane E. N. Head, int. for 1874 & 75	50 00
James Nowell, " " "	450 00
John E. Webster, " on bond	60 00
George Warner, " " "	50 00
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	\$1138 00

ABATEMENTS.

Paid G. O. Reynolds, on 1873, '74 and '75	\$143 88
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BOOKS AND STATIONERY.

Paid F. D. Bartlett, printing tax bills	\$3 00
G. O. Reynolds, postage stamps, blank books, &c.	1 70
Wm. H. Fiske, printing town reports and blank books	59 00
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	\$63 70

SNOW PATHS.

Paid George Goodhue, for 1874	\$6 50
James Rogers, "	17 56
Mathew Senter, "	15 00
J. H. Hazeltine, for 1873, '74 and '75	9 53
E. S. Evans, "	2 80
E. E. Rogers, "	16 70
Wm. Hixon, "	17 56
A. B. Beedee, "	54 82
Lyman George, "	7 25
James C. Taylor, "	3 00

Paid O. D. Couch,	1874	31 65
Geo. W. Head,	"	16 80
Joseph Y. James,	"	4 20
Charles M. Clyde,	"	11 00
A. A. Chase,	"	15 15
John P. Whidden,	"	14 82
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		\$244 34

GRAVE YARD.

Paid George Richards, services as sexton	\$64 50
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TOWN HOUSE.

Paid Joseph Montgomery, Chairman Building Committee	\$7700 00
H. E. Eastman, insurance on town house, 5 years	170 00
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\$7870 00	

G. O. REYNOLDS, COLLECTOR.

Dr.

Balance of uncollected taxes on list of 1874	\$830 00
List of taxes for 1875	8350 12
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\$9180 12	

Cr.

By paid Town Treasurer, list of 1874	\$830 00
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By paid Town Treasurer, list of 1875	6733 12
Balance of uncollected taxes for 1875	1617 00
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	\$9180 12

SUMMARY.

Schools	\$2,452 81
Maintenance of the poor	788 60
Town officers	622 00
State tax	1,988 00
County tax	1,850 84
Roads and bridges	376 76
Non res. highway receipts	265 52
Miscellaneous	138 20
Notes and interest paid	1,138 00
Abatements	143 88
Books and stationery	63 70
Snow paths	244 34
Grave yard	64 50
Town house	7,870 00
Cash in treasury	3,041 36
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	\$21,048 51

BALANCE SHEET.

TOWN OF DERRY DR.

Amount of funded debt	\$ 2,150 00
Notes payable	10,000 00
Interest due March 1, 1876	128 00
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	\$12,278 00

CR.

By amount of uncollected taxes	\$1,617 00
Cash in treasury	3,041 36
Dr. Brown note	500 00
Due from estate of Mrs. Nowell	2,000 00
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	\$7,158 36
Amount of town debt,	5,119 64
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	\$12,278 00

Respectfully submitted,

JOSHUA MORSE,	}	Selectmen of Derry.
G. O. REYNOLDS,		
JOHN E. WEBSTER,		

DERRY, February 29, 1876.

This certifies that I have examined the foregoing accounts, as presented by the Selectmen, and find them correctly cast and satisfactory vouchers corresponding thereto.

CHARLES C. JOHNSON, Auditor.

ROBERT H. CLARKE, TREASURER IN ACCOUNT
WITH THE TOWN OF DERRY.

DEBTOR.

March, 1875, cash in treasury	\$3,768 20
State bonds	1,700 00
Dr. Brown, note	500 00
Money hired by selectmen	5,000 00
Interest on State bonds	45 61
“ on Dr. Brown’s legacy	30 00
From State Treasurer Savings Bank tax	1,848,55
“ “ “ Railroad “	545 60

Literary fund	149 64
From County Treasurer	378 04
Interest on taxes	19 75
Balance of Collector's list for 1874	830 00
Received on Collector's list for 1875	6,733 12
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	\$21,548 51

CREDIT.

By paid orders of Selectmen	\$18,007 15
Dr. Brown note	500 00
Cash in treasury	3,041 36
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	\$21,548 51

ROBERT H. CLARK, TREASURER.

I have examined the Treasurer's account and find the same correctly cast and satisfactory vouchers corresponding thereto.

CHARLES C. JOHNSON, AUDITOR.

Feb. 29th, 1876.

BILLS OF WORK ON ACCOUNT OF TOWN HOUSE.

William Reynolds, labor	\$74 82
Caleb Whidden, “	50 21
Benjamin Houstin, “	23 64
Alvin J. Chase, “	7 00
James Evans, “	75 24
Horace Quimby, “	44 62
Charles. Goodwin, “	94 41
James Bonner, “	48 20
Calvin Foote, “	26 36
H. L. Hill, labor	72 00
H. E. Eastman, work, time and expenses	126 66
J. N. Hunt, labor,	214 98
J. M. Cushman, labor,	6 13
W. S. Rowell, stone work	39 94
B. F. Eastman, teaming	85 79
Eastman & Shattuck, teaming	223 47
Edwin T. Parker, labor	1 65
Frank W. Eastman, labor	4 45
Isaac N. Hunt, teaming	40 82
F. W. Gregg, plans &c.	37 00
W. W. Poor, work, time, expense, and material	189 21
J. C. Rowell, stone work	73 31
Benjamin Barker, stone work	19 17
Charles Field, labor	13 00
Man'r Granite Co., derrick	35 00
George A. French, insurance	18 00
W. H. Fisk, printing	1 75
W. C. Palmer, mason work	67 50
Hiram Johnson, mason work	71 75
Geo. W. Davis, “ “	69 12
W. H. Palmer, mason work	57 00
Charles McKenney, mason work	40 25

Charles Palmer, labor	22	75
J. P. Whidden, labor	27	75
George Richards, blacksmithing	5	60
Jos. R. Clark, surveying	1	50
Elbridge Davis, labor	4	50
J. W. Greeley, acct. contract and extra work	1150	00
William Emery, labor	6	00
N. G. Blake, labor	7	00
George Ballston, plastering	115	70
W. H. Eastman, labor	3	00
James Taylor	4	50
J. A. Taylor	2	17
D. W. Batchelder	1	50
D. Shattuck, labor	5	50
Frank Shattuck.	3	00
H. D. Eastman	8	43
G. R. Vance, tinning porch	16	50
H. Richards, labor	1	00
Goodwin & Pratt, blacksmith work	36	51
George Morse, labor	30	20
R. Fellows acct., painting	75	00
T. R. Robie, blacksmith work	10	98
E. P. Upton, pump work	1	37
C. C. Johnson,	23	13
J. C. Poor, carpenter work	21	37
Jos. Montgomery, work, teaming & expse.	94	80
R. Fellows acct., painting	50	00
R. Fellows,	51	01

\$3,733 22

DERRY, N. H., 1875 and '76.

BILLS OF MATERIAL ON ACCOUNT OF TOWN HOUSE.

H. E. Eastman, nails, lead, etc.	34 64
Man. & Law. railroad, freighting	284 96
O. D. Couch, timber	654 73
H. & H. R. Pettee, lime, etc.	157 81
Moss & Whyte, sieve	3 00
J. M. Woodman, granite	25 00
Portland Stone Ware Co., drain pipe	6 50
Old Colony Iron Co., nails	82 97
Brown & Dickey, lumber	200 64
Brigham & Pratt, brackets	7 50
D. H. Webster, underpinning	87 85
Pike & Heald, iron work	2 00
Sullivan Brothers, " "	3 20
G. Chilson, ventilators	16 00
Merrill Bros., lead and oil	80 20
Couch & Underhill, lumber	261 04
Jesse Gault, brick	392 00
Brown Lumber Co., lumber	823 09
S. C. Forsaith & Co., furnaces and lumber	211 50
B. Chase, jr., lumber	10 10
W. D. White, cement	3 50
G. S. Rollins, lime	9 57
Daniels & Co. hardware	27 16
Austin, Johnson & Co., windows, etc.	159 58
J. Hodge, mouldings	33 48
J. B. Varick, hardware	82 66
F. W. Parker, sundries	18 13
H. R. Underhill, wood	4 87
Derry Building Association, brick, &c.	3 40
Briggs & Allyn, doors, &c.	84 10
G. G. Durrell & Co., stair rail	32 30
Artemas Merriam, settees and chairs	262 80

H. E. Eastman, nails &c.	12 82
Jones, McDuffee & Stratton, chandelier &c.	169 80
B. P. Rice, stone	4 00
J. Shannon, stone	1 00
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	\$4253 90

DERRY, N. H., 1875 and '76.

MATERIAL SOLD ON ACCOUNT OF TOWN HOUSE.

Brick, shingles, laths, nails, lumber, &c., sold to Messrs. Underhill, Sanders, Co- burn and others, amounting to	\$287 12
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BALANCE SHEET.

DR.

To money rec'd from the town	\$7700 00	
Material sold	287 12	
	<hr/>	\$7987 12

CR.

By bills paid for material	\$4253 90	
Bills paid for labor	3733 22	
	<hr/>	\$7987 12

DERRY, N. H. March 6, 1876.

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN:

The undersigned, a committee chosen at the last annual town meeting to build a town house, beg leave to make the following report: They have attended to the duty assigned to them, and have endeavored to construct a building suited to the wants of the town, in a thorough manner. So far as we know, the work is well done, and the material used is of the best quality. In presenting our estimates to the town last spring, we reckoned the cost of basement to sill at \$1500.00, which would have been nearly correct had not your committee deemed it best to expend about three hundred dollars additional to make the foundations sure, by building it on the solid ledge. This extra expense covers a large part of the excess of cost over the appropriation. Your committee, in order to improve the building, decided to use heavier window trimmings, brackets around the eaves, build a porch in front, a rostrum in the hall, and a rear stairway from the hall to the basement, at an expense of about \$400.00.

The cost of lighting, seating, and heating was about \$800.00. One hundred dollars more than the appropriation, which excess arose from the necessity of building two arches for the furnaces; your committee being satisfied that one furnace would not heat the building sufficiently, and from a mistake of about \$30.00 in the estimates of the builders of the furnaces. All of which is respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH MONTGOMERY,	} Building Committee.
H. E. EASTMAN,	
W. W. POOR,	
C. C. JOHNSON,	
GEORGE MOORE,	

SCHOOL REPORT.

In reviewing the operations of the past year, and the present condition of our schools, nothing of uncommon or startling interest seems to present itself. The record is one of worthy effort on the part of the teachers, resulting in a corresponding degree of improvement in their pupils.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

The summer and fall terms were under the care of Miss Alice D. Morse, whose successful experience as a teacher in the past was here repeated. The school was orderly, and fair progress made in the various studies. Mr. Joseph W. Bean has charge of the school at present, and the result of his earnest and stirring labors is a show of classes well drilled and instructed, a well ordered school room, and good progress of most of the scholars.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Few teachers better fitted by nature and education could have been procured than the one who had charge here during the summer and fall.

Miss Julia I. Underhill has taught this school for several terms, and her patient and untiring exertions have been rewarded by the respect, cheerful obedience and steady advancement of her pupils.

The winter school is under the care of I. H. Jones, and is not yet finished.

The thanks of the district are due to Benjamin Chase, Esq., for a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary (illustrated), presented by him to the school in October last, and which has been in daily use, to the great benefit of teachers and scholars.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

A young lady with whose abilities as a teacher the people of the district were well acquainted, Miss Maria M. Parsons, was engaged for the summer and fall, and carried the school work steadily forward. The closing exercises showed that it was done well.

Mr. G. K. Bartlett entered here at the commencement of the winter term, as an apprentice in the art of teaching, but did wisely the work of a master. Everything was done with care, exactness and thoroughness, and the pupils did not fail to profit by the instructions received.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

The parents and pupils of the district were favored with the services of Miss Lois J. Wadsworth, a thoroughly qualified, experienced and able teacher, through the year.

The average attendance was good, the discipline and instruction as they should be, and the progress of the scholars highly satisfactory.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

The short spring term was taught by Miss Carrie V. Whitney, who was herself a pupil of the previous term. She showed a good degree of talent and ability, worked earnestly, and accomplished her task successfully.

Miss L. J. Wadsworth took the care of the school in the fall term, and gained the highest commendations from all parties interested.

Quite a number not residing in the district attended here during both terms.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Miss Amanda B. Nichols was the instructor in this district throughout the year, and, without previous experience, showed an aptness from the first in imparting knowledge, a conscientiousness in the discharge of the duties of the school-room, and a faculty of winning the regard of her pupils, which promised a success, of which the final exercises gave full assurance.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

A young lady who had not before taught, Miss Emma J. Adams, had charge of both the summer and fall terms of this school, meeting with some obstacles, but working faithfully through good and evil report. The school appeared well at its close. Most of the scholars made fair progress, and some of them were worthy of special commendation.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

A tried teacher, Miss Anne I. Hammond, was engaged for the summer term, and under her care good order was maintained, and the school prospered.

The winter term was taught by I. H. Jones. The school was a pleasant one, the scholars well disposed, and most of them made fair improvement.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

The school house in this district has been thoroughly repaired the past season, and the school, under its young teacher, Miss Nellie Montgomery, was a pleasant one to visit. Parents seemed interested, pupils earnest, and the teacher faithful to the charge committed to her care. The school year has been a very successful one.

DISTRICT NO. 11.

Miss E. P. Hood was re-engaged in this district where her superior qualifications as a teacher are so well known and appreciated, and taught during the spring term of nine weeks. The esteem of pupils and citizens was manifested by the presentation of a substantial gift at the close of the school. Ill health compelling Miss H. to withdraw, Miss Sarah E. Crowell taught the first three weeks of the fall term. Her health failed, and her place was supplied by Miss Mary J. S. Anderson, who completed the term to the satisfaction of all interested.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

This is the banner district of the town for regularity of attendance, the register showing nearly 98 1-2 per cent. as the average for the year. The teacher, Miss Mary A. Morse, was thoroughly qualified for a teacher, and the school made excellent progress under her care.

District No.	Term.	TEACHERS.	Wages per mo.	Length of Term.	No. of Scholars.	Average Att'nce.	Amount of School Money.	PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.
1	Summer	Alice D. Morse	\$35 00	17	34	21 1-2	\$305 91	A. A. Pressey.
1	Winter	Joseph Bean	44 00	13	27	22 —		A. A. Pressey.
2	Summer	Julia I. Underhill	40 00	18	52	46 1-2	337 45	W. W. Poor.
2	Winter	I H Jones	45 00	12	47	32		W. W. Poor.
3	Summer	Maria M. Parsons	28 00	22	17	13 —	196 84	J. R. Clark.
3	Winter	Greenleaf K Bartlett	32 00	9	10	8 —		J. R. Clark.
4	Summer	Lois J. Wadsworth	34 00	8	29	26	128 02	Uriah Hall.
4	Winter	Lois J. Wadsworth	34 00	8	32	26		Uriah Hall.
5	Summer	Carrie V. Whitney	20 00	7	18	15 x	86 11	Geo. H. Whitney
5	Fall	Lois J. Wadsworth	34 00	6	28	25 x		Geo. H. Whitney.
6	Summer	Amanda B Nichols	20 00	8	23	20 x	81 31	Morrill Bartlett
6	Fall	Amanda B Nichols		7	20	18 x		Morrill Bartlett.
7	Summer	Emma J. Adams	20 00	10	25	21	163 27	Edward L. Emery.
7	Fall	Emma J. Adams	26 00	14 1-2	30	23		Edward L. Emery.
8	Summer	Anne I. Hammond	31 00	10	17	13	190 38	Geo. I. Choate.
8	Winter	I. H. Jones	45 00	8	20	17		Geo. I. Choate.
9	Summer	Nellie Montgomery	24 00	9	15	12	106 09	John C. Rowell.
9	Fall	Nellie Montgomery		9	17	15		John C. Rowell.
11	Summer	Miss E. P. Hood	29 00	9	22	20 x	134 99	W. H. Crowell.
11	Fall	Mary J. S. Anderson	20 00	10	18	14 x		W. H. Crowell.
12	Summer	Mary A. Moore	20 00	10	11	10 x	103 04	Joshua Morse.
12	Fall	Mary A. Moore	20 00	12	12	11 x		

Although we may speak encouragingly of the past, it behooves the people of this town to consider well whether some change may not be made in our school system which shall increase its efficiency.

The stirring utterance which has so lately rung in the ears of many of our people, "There is something better farther on," may be applied, for the time, to this matter of education. It is not wise to sit down contented with the present condition of things if by our own efforts we may attain to something better.

Among other questions submitted to the School Committees of the several towns in the State by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, was the following: "Would you approve a State law constituting the office of town board of education for the management of the public schools in town? State what powers and duties you would commit to such an office, of how many persons it should consist, and for how long chosen." To this question the following answer was returned by your committee:

"I should most heartily approve such a law. Such board should, in most cases, consist of three persons chosen for three years, the term of office of one member expiring annually. They should define the bounds of school districts, locate school houses, recommend the building and repairing of the same, and direct such building and repairing wisely and with due economy after appropriations have been secured; should examine and contract with teachers, instruct them in their duties if necessary, and see that such instructions are carried out; exercise a careful oversight of the schools, and generally use their best endeavors to advance the cause of education and morality."

Without pausing to present the various reasons for such change, as the matter cannot be definitely

acted upon at the present annual meeting, it is suggested that the town choose a committee, perhaps of one from each school district, who shall be instructed to inquire into, consider and report at the next annual town meeting upon the question—

Is it expedient to make any change in the school system of this town?—and to recommend such changes as they may deem advisable.

Such report might not be a unanimous one. Various plans and suggestions might be expected which should be freely discussed. In such discussion much may be learned, an interest excited, and an impulse given to the cause of education which shall be long and favorably felt.

Let us consider well and act wisely and vigorously for all, and especially for our children, upon whom are so soon to rest the burdens and responsibilities which we are now bearing.

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC H. JONES,

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

March 2, 1876.

